Annex "A," Subparagraph 1b

Sociological Background

HISTORICAL SETTING

●174 According to linguistic evidence, the peoples speaking Finno-Ugric languages originally lived in central Russia around the Volga and gradually split into different tribes. The ancestors of the present-day Finns, the so-called Balto-Finnic tribe, probably left their original home at the beginning of the Christian era and wandered towards the northwest until they reached the southern shores of the Baltic [172] Sea. Archeological evidence, however, seems to place the original home of the Finns much farther westward, around the Baltic, so this 174 problem is still being disputed. At any rate, 174 when they were living on the shores of the Baltic, the Finnic peoples came into close

144 contact with Lithuanian and German tribes, the
●174 result of which was, to a certain extent, a mixed population.

167 Gradually some of these Balto-Finnic people
162 began to migrate to the north across the Gulf of Finland. The country here was probably already known to them as rich in forests and hunting grounds, and at that time it was only very sparsely populated by nomadic Lapps and perhaps some Germanic people with settlements along the southwestern coastal area. The tribes moving over to the north were called the Finns (suomalaiset) and the Tavastians (hämäläiset). A third tribe, the Karelians (karjalaiset), had probably migrated by land over the Karelian Isthmus and had settled around Lake Ladoga, pushing their frontier slowly westward. These

538 brought much devastation on both sides of the sea.

175 797 177 The Scandinavians, meanwhile, had been converted to Christianity and had achieved a kind of national unity while the Finns were still divided into tribes hostile to each other. Under those circumstances, Sweden gradually acquired a foothold in Finland, and the conversion of the Finns to Christianity took place at the same time. The conquest of Finland long has been said to have been completed during three crusades, undertaken in 1155, 1238, and 1293, led by Swedish kings and commanders and resulting in the conversion and submission of the Finns, the Tavastians and the Karelians. However, according to modern historical investigation, the conquest of Finland came about much

175 more slowly, the Swedes taking advantage of
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177 the continued internal animosity between the Finnish tribes. The religious conversion took place very gradually, too. Christianity had its first stronghold among the Swedish settlers, who had immigrated to Åland and to the adjoining archipelago and coastal areas, and from them the new doctrine spread among their Finnish neighbors. The Apostle of Finland was St. Henry, archbishop of Upsala and an Anglo-Saxon by birth, who preached and baptized throughout southwestern Finland until he was killed by a pagan farmer and chieftain, Lalli, who resented the interference of a "foreigner." [773] Lalli has sometimes been elevated to the role of the first representative of the first Finnish national spirit, but he is more or less a mythical figure.

175 mythical figure. St. Henry, on the other hand,
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[776] is a historical figure, and no doubt suffered the
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death of a martyr during his missionary excursions. He became the patron saint of Finland, and several churches were built to commemorate his deeds.

The conversion was carried on among the other tribes by monks and native missionaries, but in distant regions paganism prevailed until the days of the reformation. There is some indication that the first attempts to convert the Finns came from the East, from the Greek
[192] Catholic Church; for instance, words like cross, Bible, pagan, and priest have been taken into Finnish from a Slavic language, but this Eastern
175 influence soon waned. At the beginning of the thirteenth century the whole of Russia, except

175 for the northwestern corner which was dominated by the city of Novgorod at Lake Ilmen, was conquered by the Tatars, and remained in their power for two hundred years. Consequently, Russia was too weak for any expansion towards the west. This calamity to the Russian people was the good fortune of the Finns who, during that period, had time to espouse Western culture and become nationally united as well.

Novgorod alone, however, was strong enough to start negotiations with Sweden over the

175 Finnish possessions. The first border line
101 between Finland and Russia was drawn in 1323, going through the Karelian Isthmus to Lake Saimaa and diagonally across the country to the northern part of the Gulf of Bothnia. Thus the land of the Karelians became divided and the

175 Karelian tribe was forever split into a western
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and an eastern part. The northern part of
Finland likewise fell to Novgorod, i.e. to
175 Russia. The Finns, however, started moving
toward the unpopulated areas in the north, and
though they were living beyond the border, they
still considered themselves Swedish citizens
and paid their taxes to the crown of Sweden.
This situation gave rise to innumerable feuds
and wars until a new borderline was agreed
upon in 1595, and the eastern boundary of
Finland was extended up to the Artic Ocean.

Finland was not considered a colony of
Sweden but an equal part of the country. Even
in 1362 Finnish representatives, together with
Swedish ones, elected a new king for the people.
The same legal and social system was developed
in both countries.

175 565 in both countries. An important feature in the social structure of Sweden-Finland was the free position of the farming class. The peasants never became serfs as they did in Central Europe, but were able to keep their landed property and their political rights in spite of the rising influence of the nobility in subsequent centuries. When the diet was established in 1435, the peasants were from the very first represented in it as one of the four estates. The name peasant, in Finnish talonpoika ('the son of the house,' i.e. the owner of the farm), like the Swedish equivalent bonde, is regarded as an honorary designation of which the owner is very proud.

177 Cultural influences usually reached Finland via Sweden, but the Finns were also in direct

175 During the sexteenth and seventeenth centuries Sweden-Finland gradually rose in political power as a result of several successful wars. As a borderland, Finland had by far the heaviest military duties. After Russia had thrown off the yoke of the Tatars, the consistent trend in her policy was an expansion towards the west and the occupation of Finland. At this time the cream of the Finnish men were following the Swedish kings in their military exploits all over Europe, and the defense of the country was left in the helpless hands of old men and youngsters. Hardly any other nation in Europe has had a past as grim as the Finns. From earliest times the population was exposed to the devastations of total warfare. Russian troops spread over the country, killing civilians, robbing churches, burning farms and cities.

175 At their approach the Finns fled to the forests and engaged in successful guerilla warfare against their invaders. When they returned home they would find their homes in ashes and their fields ruined, but with grim perseverance [642] they kept up their resistance. It is no wonder that in those circumstances there developed in the Finns a mistrust, even a hatred, towards the Russians and everything that was Russian, a feeling that was inherited by each new generation.

175 703 By this time the Finns had begun to achieve universal fame as excellent soldiers and generals. The number of Finnish men in the Swedish army was proportionally much larger than that of the Swedes, and the Finnish units were regarded as striking forces which were

175 entrusted with the most responsible battlefield
703 positions. The Finnish cavalry under Gustavus Adolphus and his successors in the Thirty Years' War performed a decisive role in the victories at Breitenfeldt, Lech and Lutzen, and they became the terror of the enemy. A rumor was soon circulated that the Finns were witches and devils whom no ordinary spear or bullet could destroy. These Finnish soldiers, called "Hakkapelites" after a German distortion of their famous battle-cry Hakkaa päälle! ('Strike on!'), are still remembered both in Finland and in Germany as the first representatives of Finnish military fitness.

175 During the seventeenth century the area of Finland had expanded to include the western shores of Lake Ladoga and the province of

175 Inkeri, the district around present-day Leningrad. Up to that time the country had been rather loosely connected with Sweden and ruled by Finnish-born officials; now a stronger central administrative system was established, and Finland was ruled directly from Stockholm. Great economic and cultural progress was achieved, especially under the governor-general, Count Pehr Brahe, who founded the [873] University of Turku--today the University of Helsinki--in 1640, and remained long in the memory of the people as the personification of a bygone golden age, of "the time of the Count." But the new administrative system brought a danger of denationalization to the Finns. Up until that time Finnish had been the common 191 565 language of the gentry as well as of the

[Up to the 17th century--Analyst]

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565 peasants, but now it became fashionable to speak Swedish instead and to pass as a Swede in the eyes of the outside world. The educated classes rejected their old Finnish family names in favor of distorted Latinized versions or strictly Swedish names. At the same time Swedish, instead of Latin, became the language of education in the schools. Thus the educated classes began more and more to forget their native tongue, the officials no longer spoke Finnish, and the language was used only in religious literature. It was said that "only with his God a Finn could speak Finnish any more," for divine services still were conducted in the native tongue of the people.

• 175 Sweden-Finland was not able to remain a great power for long. The last decade of the

175 [731] seventeenth century was disastrous for Finland because of the subsequent years of famine and pestilence which cut down the country's population of half a million by one-third. And immediately afterwards came the Great Northern War, in which the Finnish troops excelled under the command of King Charles XII in foreign battlefields, but which left the country defenseless against the depredations of Czar Peter the Great. After Charles XII was defeated and his army dispersed, most of the Finnish officers and soldiers went to imprisonment in Siberia rather than to accept advantageous positions in the service of the Czar. Meanwhile, Russian troops had invaded Finland and conquered one area after another, until they finally had the entire country in their

175 possession. There was no army, hardly any grown-up men to resist them. The following years were the darkest in the whole history of Finland. Russian troops, free from control, devastated and robbed the country, and thousands of Finnish civilians were killed or dragged as captives to Russia, where they were forced to build Peter's new capital, St. Petersburg, on Finnish soil. There was no law, no order in the country, no crimes were punished, no schools operated, there were not people or horses enough to plow the fields, and the survivors of the ordeal were hiding in the forests. The entire governing body of the country escaped to Sweden, except for the ministers, most of whom stayed with their people and often paid with their lives for their

175 faithfulness. When peace at last was established in 1721, Inkeri, Ladoga-Karelia and the Karelian Isthmus were ceded to Russia, and the population of Finland had diminished to a scant 200,000.

Twenty years later Finland again was occupied by the Russians and at the succeeding peace treaty another part of its area was nibbled away. Subsequent wars failed to return any of the lost territories. Moreover, in Finland a bitterness against Sweden, which had provided no defense for them, was slowly spreading among the people. A resistance movement arose among the Finnish-born officers of the army, who were negotiating with Russia to establish Finland as an autonomous state under Russian protection, but the leaders were discovered and beheaded. All the same, it was

● 175 obvious now that Sweden could no longer keep Finland in its possession.

In spite of its distant location, great events in world politics have always affected the fate of Finland. In 1807 Napoleon and the Czar of the Russians, Alexander I, held a conference in Tilsit and divided Europe among themselves. Finland was acknowledged as belonging to the Czar, and the following year Russian troops once more crossed the frontier. The Swedish king and the government carried on the war half-heartedly, treason among the officers caused the key fortress, Sveaborg, outside Helsinki to fall into Russian hands without a fight. Reinforcements from Sweden failed to appear, except for an inefficient commander-in-chief, who, according to the soldiers,

●175 could give only one command, "Retreat!" As the army was retreating towards the north, followed by the enemy, a poignant feeling of shame was shared by officers and soldiers alike. Suddenly one of the lesser Finnish officers turned his troops against the Russians and achieved a glorious victory. The success was short-lived, but it had important consequences. Alexander I was greatly impressed by the fortitude and patriotism shown by the simple Finnish soldiers and this confirmed his decision to give the country a favorable [538] position under Russia. Some forty years later the famous Finnish poet, Johan Ludvig Runeberg, inspired by the events of the war of 1808-09, published a collection of fine patriotic poems, The Tales of the Ensign Stål, which are still

175 regarded as a national treasure and which did much to inspire Finnish nationalistic feeling.

In 1809 the 600-year union with Sweden was broken. The administrative, social and cultural institutions of Finland were by that time well established, and they still remain essentially unchanged. The 100-year union with Russia interfered little with the common Swedish-Finnish inheritance, which still today is strongly felt to bind these two countries together. True to his promise, Alexander I called the Finnish estates together and announced that Finland was now to be raised among the nations, and that the country would have complete internal autonomy. He, like all the subsequent czars, confirmed the laws, the institutions and the religion of Finland and

●175 promised to uphold the rights and privileges of the estates, the Church and the individual. Thus Finland, along with the areas previously ceded to Russia, except for Inkeri, had its own diet, its own government, called the senate, its own central administration, its own army (to be used only for defense), and later on even its own monetary system. Customs regulations were established at the border between the two countries, which now were bound together only by a common foreign policy and by the person of the emperor, who became the Grand Duke of Finland.

Although there were many who bitterly complained about the separation from Sweden, on the whole it was a fortunate development, for it put an end to the denationalization of the Finns.

175 Because there was an aversion against the Russians, who were regarded as a completely different people in ideology and cultural background, the Finns, on all levels of society, were
186 reluctant to mingle with them. The national movement, which began in the first half of the nineteenth century, had as its slogan: "We are not Swedes, we can never become Russians, let us be Finns!" The greatest source of inspiration for this movement was the appearance of the
[538] Kalevala, the Finnish national epos, in 1835. Apart from Christianity and the reformation, it was the most important thing that had ever
186 191 happened to the Finns. National self-esteem was greatly elevated, and the Finnish language, which had been looked down upon as a tongue of the backwoods, was glorified as magical

186 effected a law under the liberal and respected Czar Alexander II, according to which Finnish was to be established as an official language, side by side with Swedish, to be used in education, administration and jurisdiction.

As a whole the nineteenth century was the most peaceful phase in the history of Finland. It represents a period of inner growth and

●175 economic and cultural development. But the last years of the century were ominous. In Russia a chauvinistic, pan-Slavic movement was rising, and the special position of Finland was looked upon with distaste. Then the blow fell, under the reign of Nicholas II in February, 1899. The Czar issued a manifest requiring the decisions of the Finnish senate to be approved by the Russian government. In effect this

● 175 meant the end of Finland's autonomy and was keenly felt as such by the whole nation. Newspapers published the manifest framed in black, women dressed in mourning, and in Helsinki the monument of the "Good Czar," Alexander II, was covered with funeral wreaths. In a couple of weeks 500,000 names were collected, unknown to the Russians, from all corners of the country and from all layers of society, in a petition asking the Czar to think over his measures, but Nicholas refused even to give audience to the delegation submitting the petition. This also happened to another delegation which brought an address "Pro Finlandia", signed by the most prominent politicians, scientists and men of letters in the free European countries.

Nicholas appointed an enemy of Finland,

● 175 Bobrikov, as the governor-general and had given him the powers of a dictator. Bobrikov now dispersed the Finnish army, and Finnish youths were ordered to enter military service in Russia. This order, however, had to be revoked, for the Finns started an effective passive resistance, and the young men simply failed to show up for induction. Other arbitrary measures followed, but these were opposed by the Finnish judges who, in turn, were sent in groups into exile or to Siberia as punishment. This persecution continued throughout the remaining period of Russian supremacy.

Bobrikov had made himself the most hated man in the whole history of Finland. In 1904, a young senate official, Eugen Schauman, shot Bobrikov--and himself--in the senate building--

175 this was the first political assassination in Finnish history. Bobrikov's death brought joy all over the country, and Schauman became a national hero. Russian pressure eased after this, and Russia's failures in the war against [646] Japan brought more temporary relief. The diet of Finland was reorganized into its present state: instead of the four estates of Swedish times it has now only one chamber of [562] 200 representatives. Finland became the first country to grant women complete suffrage in 1906.

175 668 But the Russian oppression began anew after a few relatively peaceful years, and the resistance of the Finns took a more and more active form. The Russian revolutionists also found accomplices in the radical wing of the Finnish

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Social Democratic party, and the country by now was in turmoil. The beginning of World War I at first brought no change in the situation. Russian troops were stationed in Finland, but no attempt was made to draft Finns into the Russian army. And the Finns, on their side, hoped fervently that the Russians would lose but otherwise were not involved in the war. The idea spread that the time had come to start preparing for the independence of Finland; it was understood that the liberation of the country could not occur by peaceful means. Sweden was asked to give military training to a group of young Finnish men who were to become the kernel of a future Finnish army. But Sweden, fearful of Russia, declined. The only remaining hope was Germany, which agreed to

175 668 train the Finns as a special unit operating only on the eastern front. From that time on young men, mostly university students, but farmers and workers, too, began to disappear without trace from the country, and the movement continued despite all Russian countermeasures.

Meanwhile, the workers dissociated themselves more radically from the rest of the nation; revolutionary ideas were spread among them. They started forming so-called Red Guards, training with weapons obtained from revolutionary Russian troops. At the same time other strata of the people, farmers and intellectuals, started forming White Guards and using weapons smuggled into the country from abroad.

175 The outbreak of the first Russian revolution in March, 1917, set free the Finnish national

175 leaders then imprisoned in Siberia and in various Russian jails. The most prominent 642 175 of them was the lawyer, P. E. Svinhufvud, who upon his return was made the head of the senate, the temporary government of Finland--there being no Czar or Grand Duke any more. This government took a decisive step on 6 December 1917 proclaiming Finland an independent state free from Russia and appealing to the statement made by Lenin that no nation was to be [648] held by Russia without its own consent. The independence of Finland was first acknowledged by France, then by Sweden, Russia and other European countries, and finally by Great Britain and the United States in May, 1919.

175 669 But it was apparent that Lenin was not going to be true to his promise. Russian troops

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remained in Finland, causing much disturbance and infiltrating the Finnish Red Guards. At the end of January, 1918, civil war broke out. The Reds took over Helsinki and southern Finland and installed a communist government. When the senate fled to northern Finland, the country was divided into "white" and "red." In the districts which they controlled, the Communists murdered many prominent citizens who were supposed to be "white"--farmers, state officials, ministers, businessmen--burned buildings and robbed stores. The "white" government gave the task of returning order to General Gustaf Mannerheim, recently returned from Russia where he had made a brilliant military career in the Russo-Japanese War as well as in World War I.

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669 Mannerheim was quite unknown in his own country, which he had left as a young boy, but he had a deep understanding of his people and immediately earned their full confidence and admiration. He took a decisive step on the night of January 27 at which time some Ostrobothnian farmers,with the help of hunting rifles, knives and clubs, attacked several Russian garrisons and seized their weapons. This was the first equipment of the Finnish army. Mannerheim accomplished wonders with his untrained troops; young Finns in German service returned and were installed as officers; Mannerheim , administered a decisive blow to the Reds in the most important battle of the Finnish War of Independence at Tampere in April, 1918. After that, German

175 669 troops landed in southern Finland, but there was only scattered resistance now, and on May 16, 1918, Mannerheim rode into Helsinki amidst music and flowers at the head of his army, a striking figure on his white steed, admired and glorified like a god by one-half of the nation and bitterly hated by the other.

642 175 Beginning its existence as an independent state did not create any administrative difficulties, since Finland had long possessed the basic institutions and trained officials. But the nation was still divided. Aware of the danger inherent in the internal dissension now plaguing the new government, Mannerheim urged mutual forgiveness and understanding, and advocated unity between the Scandinavian countries to which Finland belonged by its very nature, customs, ideology and history.

very nature, customs, ideology and history.

175 727 Slowly the memories of the civil war began to be forgotten and the resources of the country were concentrated in constructive

175 181 work. As an independent state Finland showed amazing economic and social progress. In the thirties Finland undoubtedly was one of the happiest countries in the world. Her living standard rose steadily, she had become almost self-supporting, communism as a political party was abolished, and fascism was too alien to the Finnish nature to become an important political factor. At the outbreak of World War II the unanimous desire in Finland was to keep out of the fight. But unfortunately

175 721 that proved impossible. In her policy of Westward expansion, Russia had long regarded Finland as an obstacle; in turn, the Finns had

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consistently presented a united front against Russian aggression, as it was commonly felt that the very survival of the nation was at stake. Russia, no doubt, had planned originally to appeal to the memories of 1918. But is became at once evident that the wounds of that time had been healed, and the Finnish nation demonstrated now an amazing unanimity of purpose which was surprising even to itself. The nation rallied around the now almost legendary figure of Field Marshal Mannerheim, and, in the Winter War of 1939-40, this nation of four million people, practically unaided, led a successful campaign against an aggressor fifty times its size--a glories chapter in the history of Finland.

600 Finland cannot escape the map. It is a

1:Indiana U S-4, 5(no date)1955 EO1 Finland EO1

175 Finland cannot escape the map. It is a
64P borderland, destined to be in dispute between West and East. In the course of centuries Finland has always sided with the West, but every generation has had to pay dearly for it.

121 The most recent developments in the history of Finland with be treated in discussions of political and economic conditions in Subparagraphs 2a and 3a.

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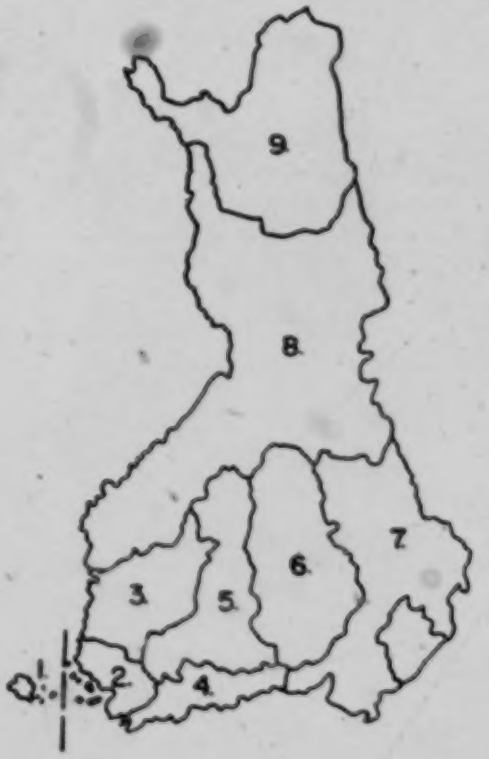
THE HISTORICAL PROVINCES OF FINLAND



1.	AHVENANMAA – ÅLAND	
2.	VARSINAIS — SUOMI	FINLAND PROPER
3.	SATAKUNTA	
4.	UUSIMAA — NYLAND	
5.	HÄME	TAVASTIA
6.	SAVO	
7.	KARJALA	KARELIA
8.	POHJANMAA	OSTROBOTHNIA
9.	LAPPI	LAPPLAND

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Map: The Boundaries of Finland.

The boundary between Russia, Sweden and Finland was extended to the Arctic Ocean in 1595, but these northern areas were not considered a part of Finland but, instead, were regarded as Swedish Lappmark.

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